



COMMUNITY HOLIDAY COALITION

"NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS"

102 Heritage Way, N.E. Suite 103

Leesburg, VA 20176

Phone: 703.771.5718 Fax: 703.737-8411

Email: kvelez@loudoun.gov

Website: www.loudoun.gov/dss/holiday



2006 Holiday Season

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

We would like to introduce ourselves to you! Many of you already know who we are and have helped to make the "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" Holiday Program a success during the past ten years and we thank you for your support.

For those of you who do not know us, we are the Community Holiday Coalition and we work hard every year to provide help during the holiday season to Loudoun County families in need. In 2005, we helped 1,250 families during the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays, including more than 2,500 children. Hundreds of volunteers and countless donors contributed their time and resources to ensure that these families had a brighter holiday!

When planning on helping this year, please look over our collection dates for both Thanksgiving and the Christmas Holidays when planning your holiday events. **We are asking that donations be received by 11/13 for Thanksgiving and by 12/12 for the December Holidays.** We will continue to receive donations through 11/16 for Thanksgiving and 12/19 for the December Holiday, but it really helps us to better determine what may still be needed for the programs if we receive donations earlier in the program. A full list of dates and times we will be open is listed on page 4 of the newsletter.

The Holiday Program needs a lot of volunteers to make the programs come together each year. We have been blessed with countless individuals, groups, businesses of all ages that want to help! Some have been volunteering since our first store in 1996 and we want you to know that we appreciate all of you! Due to the great number of calls from people who want to help, we are asking that when you contact the volunteer line, that you either fill in the form on the reverse side of this letter or call 703.737.8367 and leave a message or email: Holidayvolunteers@loudoun.gov or go through the website: 1-800-Volunteer.org. We will have volunteers checking each of these contact methods, so if you haven't heard from someone please continue to contact one of our volunteer organizers using the same method of communication that you originally used. We want and need all of your help, so we're hoping this will speed up our return calls/messages to each of you.

Recently the United States Census Bureau announced that Loudoun County is the wealthiest county in America with a \$98,000 median income and that it continues to be one of the fastest growing counties in the United States. But here in this affluent county, we find that many people who live here are just making it paycheck to paycheck and find themselves unable to afford those extra things the rest of us enjoy during the Holidays - when the bills are paid there is just nothing left. These are people we see everyday, people working hard to keep a roof over their head and food on the table. Although the poverty percentage rate in the county is low and has stayed the same for years, the growing population makes the number of people increase every day. This program not only addresses those living in poverty, but it helps those people working every day trying to survive, the working poor, the elderly and those with special needs. Every year it becomes more of a challenge to meet the growing need in our community. The Coalition is thankful that we can count on the Loudoun community to respond to that need in the true spirit of "Neighbors Helping Neighbors".

Due to the generosity of Buchanan Partners this years program will be held at The Dulles Trade Center I off Old Ox Road (Route 606) in Sterling. Please check the website: www.loudoun.gov/dss/holiday or call the hotline (703) 771-5718 for more information about the location and directions.

On the backside of this letter there is a commitment form. We hope all of you that have helped in the past will continue to help, and for those of you that are new, how about joining us this year? Please return your commitment to the above address as soon as possible so we know who we count on for support this year!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call. We look forward to hearing from you and working with you to make the year 2006 Holidays a happier time for Loudoun families. We wish you a very happy holiday season and hope we can count on you!

Sincerely,

Karen Velez

Karen Velez—Holiday Program Coordinator